

Conservation Connections



St. Louis Regional Newsletter

Missouri Department of Conservation

May 2011

BASS

By Jeff Breuer, Conservation Agent

As the last days of May approach, some folks planned a BBQ. Others, primarily fishermen, have planned for the stream bass season opener. The season kicks off on the fourth Saturday of May. This year it will fall on May 28 of the Memorial Day weekend. The stream bass season opener pertains to three species of black bass known as largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, and spotted or Kentucky bass.

A largemouth bass, as the name implies, has a large mouth and an upper jaw extending beyond the back of the eye in adult fish. This black bass has greenish upper parts with a dark horizontal stripe. A smallmouth bass has a smaller mouth, and the upper jaw does not extend beyond the back of the eye. The smallmouth has a greenish-brown back and sides with vertical bars. The spotted bass, like the largemouth, has greenish upper parts with the dark horizontal stripe.



However, a spotted bass does not have the jaw extension beyond the back of the eye in adults. Also, a "spot" has a rough patch on the tongue where the largemouth has a smooth tongue.

Why is it so important to tell the three black bass apart? Two reasons are daily limits and length limits. The

number of largemouth, smallmouth, and spotted bass you can keep per day depends on where you are fishing. For example, some streams have trophy areas where only one smallmouth can be kept per day. Length limits also vary on streams. Some streams, for example, have no length limits on spotted bass. The Wildlife Code of Missouri lists all the black bass regulations. The Code can be picked up at any Missouri Department of Conservation office or found online at the Missouri Secretary of State's web site: <http://www.sos.mo.gov/adrules/csr/current/3csr/3csr.asp>

With black bass identification and regulations in mind, it's time to go fish. Crayfish and minnows work well as bait for all three species of bass. Dry flies and poppers are good artificial baits. Try casting in the stream's main channel, riffles, and backwaters. Wet a line and enjoy the stream bass opener!

Catch on to Catch-and-Release Fishing

Often, fishing is for pleasure rather than for food. Catch and release, or releasing fish immediately after they are caught, is a conservation measure that contributes to fish populations, rather than decreasing them. Following a few basic guidelines will increase the chances of a fish's survival:

- Whenever possible, do not take the fish out of the water.
- Filing the barbs off hooks makes removal easier.
- Never pull a hook from the fish's throat or stomach; it is better to cut the line—many hooks will rust away.
- Avoid excessive handling of fish.
- If handling is necessary, make certain not to squeeze or drop the fish.
- Never put your fingers in the gills or eye sockets.

Many anglers are starting to catch on to catch and release. Releasing fish helps maintain a fishery for the future!

Columbia Bottom Conservation Area

May 2011

801 Strodtman Road, St. Louis, MO 63138 Office hours are Wednesday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Saturday - Sunday from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

For reservations call (314) 877- 6014 Wednesday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-270 north take the Riverview Drive exit (last Missouri exit); go north approximately 2.8 miles. Riverview Drive becomes Columbia Bottom Road at its intersection with Larimore Road. The entrance is on the right-hand side. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/areas/bottom



13 Full Moon Walk in the Woods

Friday 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

(Ages 7 & up) Let's follow the River's Edge Trail as it meanders through the bottomland forest at Columbia Bottom along the edge of the Missouri River from its confluence with the Mississippi River. A full moon, risen earlier today, lights our way as we help you discover nocturnal residents by looking and listening for evidence of them. While moonlight dances on the water, you might also get a glimpse of the "cold fire" light of bioluminescence on the forest floor and the flashing signals of fireflies. Meet at the Confluence Viewing Platform. (Reservations begin April 29.)

14 Tots on the Trail

Saturday 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

(Ages 2 - 6) Our Babes in the Woods are getting older. They are out of their strollers and walking the trails. This month, we will use our ears to listen for frogs and toads, read a story or two, and do some fun art activities. If you know a tune about frogs, bring it to share. Bring your stroller if you must. Dress for the weather and to get messy. (Reservations begin April 30.)



15 Discover Nature Families: Pirates of Columbia Bottom

Sunday 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.



(Families) Want to hunt for hidden treasure? Anyone can be a modern day pirate by geocaching! This adventurous outdoor activity ties technology and nature together for all ages. Join us for a brief introduction on the basics of geocaching before you "set sail" on Columbia Bottom. Who knows what hidden treasures await you and your shipmates? GPS units will be provided with a valid driver's license or ID. Meet at the Visitor Center. (Reservations begin May 1.)

16 Seniors' Picnic at the Forest Edge

Monday 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

(Seniors) This is the "International Year of the Forest", so let's celebrate! Missourians care about conserving our forests because they are a valuable resource, providing food and homes for wildlife, as well as enriching our lives every day. Let's practice identifying trees, learn a few "forest facts" and look for some of the smallest creatures in the woods. This visit to the forest will not involve much walking. Afterwards we will enjoy a picnic in the open-air pavilion near the Confluence, so bring a sack lunch. Water and dessert will be provided. Meet at the Slough parking lot - 4 miles past the entrance. (Reservations begin April 29.)

August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 Office hours are Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

For reservations call (636) 441-4554 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on Hwy D for approximately 2 miles. The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy D. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/busch

7 Wonders of Wildflowers Walk

Saturday 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

(Families) Experience the beauty and diversity of wildflowers. We'll find and identify wildflowers near the Busch Visitor Center and take a short drive to other areas of Busch with blooming wildflowers. (Reservations begin April 22.)



7 Busch Bird Watching Auto Tour

Saturday 8:30 a.m. - Noon

(Adults & Families with children ages 12 & up) It's a great time to go bird watching! The first weekend in May is peak bird migration time in the St. Louis region which adds an extra thrill to the birding experience. Hop a ride in our vans as we travel to different bird habitats in forests, prairies, and wetlands around Busch, while taking short walks to look for a variety of birds. Please bring your own binoculars and bird field guides to learn to make the most of your resources. (Reservations begin April 22.)

12 Beautiful Butterflies

Thursday 1:30 p.m. - 3 p.m.

(Ages 7 - 12) Butterflies are beautiful creatures that have many characteristics that make them unique animals. May is a great time to observe butterflies in your yard, neighborhood park, or local conservation area. We will learn the life cycle of a butterfly, the differences between moths and butterflies, why butterflies are beautiful, and build "butterfly bombs" to plant in your yard. We will also visit the butterfly garden to catch and identify butterflies. Please dress for the weather. (Reservations begin April 28.)

14 Birds and Spring Wildflowers

Saturday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

(Adults) Join us for a refreshing 8.3 mile spring hike through the forests and panoramic bluff views at the Weldon Spring Conservation Area. We will be looking for spring wildflowers, resident and migrating songbirds during our journey. (Reservations begin April 29.)

26 River Otters in the Refuge Lake!

Thursday 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

(Ages 7 - 10) A species once nearly extinct in Missouri can now be found in large numbers throughout the state, even here at Busch Conservation Area. Learn about conservation practices that have encouraged the triumphant return of the river otter to Missouri's wetlands and rivers. We will construct a river otter craft to take home and take a short walk to look for our aquatic, acrobatic friends at the Busch Refuge Lake. Please dress for the weather and wear appropriate shoes. (Reservations begin May 12.)

27 Goodness Snakes Alive!

Friday 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.

(Ages 4 - 6) Are snakes really slimy? How do they move, smell, hear, and catch their food? Learn the answers to these questions and discover more neat stuff about snakes. You will observe live Missouri snakes and even be able to touch them. Come prepared to take a short walk to look for snakes in their natural habitat. (Reservations begin May 13.)



28 Snakes and Lizards - Awesome or What!

Saturday 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.

(Ages 7 - 12) How many "poisonous" snakes are there in Missouri? Can a lizard grow a new tail? Come find the answers to these questions while learning about the snakes and lizards of Missouri. You will observe live snakes and even touch some if you want. Come prepared for a short hike to observe snakes and lizards in their natural habitat. (Reservations begin May 13.)

Rockwoods Reservation

May 2011

2751 Glencoe Road, Wildwood, MO 63038 Office hours are Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

For reservations call (636) 458-2236 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-44 take Hwy 109 north 4 miles to Woods Avenue; left on Woods Avenue, then immediately right on Glencoe Road. From Manchester Road take Hwy 109 south 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, then immediately right on Glencoe Road.

Visit <http://www.mdc.mo.gov/regions/st-louis/rockwoods-reservation>

4 Wildflower Walk

Wednesday 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.

(Ages 7 & up) Get out and enjoy spring with us! We will learn the basics of wildflower identification and go on a short hike to check out what's blooming at Rockwoods. (Reservations begin April 20.)



12 Outdoor Cooking

Thursday 2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

(Ages 9 & up) Join us to learn different methods for cooking in the outdoors. After learning these skills, you'll be ready to make meals after a morning of hunting or backpacking. All food will be provided. (Reservations begin April 28.)

18 Beginning Birding

Wednesday 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.

(Ages 7 & up) Do you know the common birds that visit your backyard? In this program, we will cover birding basics as well as learn how to use binoculars. We will go on a short bird hike, so please dress for the weather. (Reservations begin May 4.)

26 Gobs of Gooseberries

Thursday 2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

(Ages 12 & up) Gooseberry season is almost upon us! Join us as we discover some uses for this tart berry and learn collection techniques in preparation for the ripening fruits. (Reservations begin May 12.)



Forest Park Office

5595 Grand Drive, St. Louis, MO 63112 Office hours are Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

For reservations call (314) 877-1309 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-44 take Kingshighway north to West Pine Boulevard, turn left. Follow West Pine to Lindell, turn left onto Lindell. Continue on Lindell past Union Drive to Cricket, turn left. Take first available right onto Grand Drive. The Visitors Center is the tan brick, red tile-roofed building with arched windows, and a clock tower. It will be on the right side of the street. Free parking is available in the double lot to the left or on the street.

9 Jr. Explorer

Monday 10:30 a.m. - noon

(Ages 3 - 5) Get outdoors and experience the sights and sounds of nature with other tots. We'll journey through one of the natural areas in Forest Park so our Jr. Explorers experience all that is around, while developing their fine motor skills. Our destination is uncharted as of yet. This class will meet at the Dennis & Judith Jones Visitor and Education Center in Forest Park. We will be both in and outdoors so dress for the weather, wear sturdy shoes, and bring a water bottle! (Reservations begin April 18.)

10 Jr. Naturalist

Tuesday 10 a.m. - noon

(Ages 5 - 9) Let's play outdoors while learning about our natural surroundings. You won't hear "Don't touch that" or "Get off of that" in this program. Participants will become Jr. Naturalists that day, while discovering nature. This class will meet at the Dennis & Judith Jones Visitor and Education Center in Forest Park. We will be both in and outdoors so dress for the weather, wear sturdy shoes, and bring a water bottle! (Reservations begin April 18.)

Busch Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

May 2011

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304

Hours are: December 1 - March 31 open Monday, Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

April 1 - November 30 open Monday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., and Tuesday from 2 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Closed all State and Federal Holidays.

For program reservations call (636) 441-4554 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on Hwy D for approximately 5 miles. The area entrance is on the south side of Hwy D. Visit <http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/busch>

7 Bowhunter Education

Saturday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

(Ages 11 & up accompanied by an adult) Bowhunter education provides a foundation in hunting safety and ethics that helps hunters focus on more than just being successful in the pursuit of game.

The basic goals of the course are to develop students who exhibit the following:

- Safe handling of archery equipment in the field and at home
- Respect for other people and property
- Respect for laws
- Awareness of hunting as a resource management tool.

Bowhunter education strives to instill responsibility, improve skills and knowledge, and encourage the involvement of beginner and veteran hunters. Responsible, ethical behavior and personal involvement are both essential to the survival of hunting. The program will be conducted in classrooms A and B at the Busch main office. (Reservations begin March 21, 2011 at <http://my.register-ed.com/event/studentchoosevent>)



7 Orienteering: Map & Compass

Saturday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

(Ages 11 & up) This class will teach you to use a map and compass, read topographic maps, learn how to adjust for declination, and understand GPS. This class teaches the importance of planning ahead for all your outdoor excursions so that you do not find yourself lost in the great outdoors. The program starts in the classroom for detailed instruction, then you will get to go out in the field and put your new skills to the test. (Reservations begin April 4.)

11, 12, 14 Basic Handgun

Classroom Wednesday 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. & Thursday 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. or Saturday 7:30 a.m. - 9:30 am

(Ages 14 & up) This program is designed to introduce beginners to handgun shooting. The first segment of the class will be in the classroom and will cover types of actions, calibers, grip, stance, sight picture, and safety. The live fire portions of the class will take place at the shooting range for hands-on experience with the instructors. Everyone must attend the classroom segment to participate in one of the live fire portions of this class. Participants under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. You may bring your own firearm or you may use one of ours. (Reservations begin April 11.)

18, 19 Basic Trap

Wednesday & Thursday 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

(Ages 14 & up) This program is designed for those who have had some experience with shotguns and want to improve their trapshooting skills. The classroom portion will cover the fundamentals of 16 yard American Trap, types of chokes, distance judgment, stances, gun mount and above all, safety. On day two we will go to the range to practice and develop new skills. Participants under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. You can bring your own equipment or we can provide it for you. (Reservations begin April 18.)

20, 21 Discover Nature Families: Camping

Friday - Saturday 6 p.m. - 9 a.m.

(Families with children ages 6 & up) This is fun for the whole family. Spend a family night under the stars at the Busch Shooting Range and attend our one night camping trip. This program is designed for families to learn together the proper techniques for camping overnight. We will cover how to pick the best spot, tent setup, campfire building, and cooking. Some tents will be provided or you may bring your own. Bring your own sleeping bags. Sign up fast, class size is limited. (Reservations begin April 25.)



Jay Henges Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

1100 Antire Road, High Ridge, MO 63049

Range Hours: May 1 - August 31: Wednesday 1 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., Thursday - Sunday 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

September 1 - April 30: Wednesday - Sunday 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Closed on Mondays and Tuesdays and all State and Federal Holidays.

For program reservations call (636) 938-9548 Wednesday through Sunday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From the east/St. Louis: I-44 west to Beaumont/Antire Road, exit 269. Left over I-44 to Antire Road. Right on Antire road. One hundred feet to entrance. Left into driveway. From the west/Eureka: I-44 east to Beaumont/Antire Road, exit 269. Follow exit lane around to top.

Visit <http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/henges>

7 Youth .22 Rifle

Saturday 8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

(Ages 9 - 13) Interested young people who have never had experience shooting .22 caliber rifles are invited to participate in a Saturday morning session learning safety and the proper techniques of shooting .22 caliber rimfire rifles in a controlled, safe environment. Firearms, ammunition, and safety equipment is provided. (Reservations begin April 7.)

8 Mother's Day - Mothers Shoot For Free

12 & 14 Discover Nature Women: Basic Handgun



Thursday 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Saturday 8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

(Ages 16 & up) This two-part womens' program will include handgun operation, shooting fundamentals, safety, maintenance, and safe storage. We'll start with a classroom session on Thursday evening, then a live-fire session on Saturday morning. Although equipment and ammunition will be provided, you may bring your own. (Reservations begin April 12.)

14 Discover Nature

Women: Basic Shotgun



Saturday 1 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

(Ages 16 & up) Join us for an introductory program shooting shotguns. We will cover proper gun selection, appropriate ammunition choices, and shooting accessories. After a classroom session, we'll move to the trap field to practice what we've learned. (Reservations begin April 14.)

18 Trigger Time - Handgun

Wednesday 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

(Ages 18 & up) Trigger Time is "hands-on" personal instruction designed to make you a better marksman. The instructor will observe shooting by each individual participant and offer suggestions on grip, stance, trigger-pull, sight alignment, and the safe handling of firearms. Participants will be required to provide their own handguns and ammunition (at least 50 rounds). (Reservations begin April 16.)

18 Basic Archery

Wednesday 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

(Families) Learn the fundamentals of shooting the bow and arrow based on the Missouri National Archery in the School Program (MONASP). This is a fun program for the whole family. All equipment will be provided. (Reservations begin April 18.)

21 Range Closed for Special Event

24 Basic Shotgun

Tuesday 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

(Ages 12 & up) This is an introductory program for beginning shotgunners. We will discuss appropriate shotguns, correct fit, gauge and ammunition selection, proper stance, mount, movement, and vision. The shooting portion of this program is not appropriate for children under 90 lbs. weight. (Reservations begin April 24.)

26 Shotshell Reloading Made Easy

Thursday 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

(Ages 16 & up) Here is an opportunity to learn the inexpensive process of reloading shotgun shells using simple equipment. The technique is easy and will save you money. We'll produce quality shotshells with low-cost equipment. (Reservations begin April 26.)

28 Trigger Time - Off-hand Rifle

Saturday 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

(Ages 18 & up) Off-hand Rifle is "hands-on" personal instruction designed to make you a better marksman. The instructor will observe shooting by each participant and offer suggestions. Participants will be required to provide their own rifles and ammunition (at least 20 rounds if center-fire rifle, 50 rounds if .22 rimfire). (Reservations begin April 28.)

Volunteer Milestones

Kim Bell	300 hours
Ray Keller	300 hours
John Zimmerly	1000 hours

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122

Building hours: Tuesday through Saturday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday and Monday: Closed

Area and trails: Open seven days a week 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. during Central Standard Time and 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. during Daylight Saving Time.

3 The Flowers are Giving a Party

Tuesday 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.

(Ages 4 & up) This spring the flowers are giving a party! What kind of party? A moving party! We sometimes give moving parties, where friends help us move things we can't move by ourselves, like sofas and washing machines. The flowers give a moving party too, because they need to have pollen moved around and can't do it by themselves. What are the party invitations like? What guests are invited? What will they eat and drink? Spend a fun-filled morning finding out, with special exhibits, crafts, and games. (Reservations begin April 19.)



3 Wings Over Water Missouri's Birds up Close and In Flight!

Tuesday 2 p.m. - 3 p.m. & 4 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Missouri American Water and the World Bird Sanctuary are bringing the "Wings Over Water" watershed education program to Powder Valley Nature Center. You'll see Missouri's eagles, owls, and hawks up close and in flight as they fly right over your head at this amazing program which is part of our Drinking Water Week Celebration. The live birds illustrate the importance of protecting our birds, their habitat, and Missouri's water resources. (Reservations begin April 19.)

7 Scout Discovery Table: Triple Try-Its

Saturday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

(All ages) **Brownies** can complete portions of What's Out There?: Animals #3 and #5, Eco-Explorer #1, and Outdoor Adventurer #5. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. (No reservations required.)

Civil War Speaks to Powder Valley's Name

Friday, May 13, 7 p.m.

Saturday, May 14, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

(All ages) Have you ever wondered why our nature center is called Powder Valley? It's not in a valley and where is the powder? The name comes from its use during the Civil War when blasting powder was stored in a cave near the area to blow up bridges if Confederate troops attacked. It is believed the cave was destroyed during the construction of I-270. Powder Valley opened its doors in October, 1991 with a much more peaceful atmosphere. The quiet study of nature is the purpose of the area today, and we're celebrating 20 years of history!

Friday, 7 p.m.

Special Guest Presentations

A special presentation from three people of the past. Meet John Hollingsworth, Chris Sutton, and Angela di Silva as they portray a Union soldier, a Confederate soldier, and a slave, giving their perspectives of the war. This is sure to be a moving event surrounding the historical aspects of the Powder Valley name. Call now for reservations.

Saturday, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Blast to the Past: A History Festival

Share in the fun of historical crafts and skills. Try out your aiming skills at the archery and atlatl range. See how the ladies and soldiers of the time spent a leisurely day. Enjoy music, storytelling, historic crafts, and more. Activities will be at the nature center and at Emmenegger Nature Park. A shuttle will be available between the sites. No reservations required.

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

For reservations call (314) 301-1500

May 2011

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with five days notice. From I-44 take Lindbergh (Route 61/67) to Watson Road. Go west on Watson Road to Geyer Road. Go north on Geyer Road to Cragwold Road then one mile west on Cragwold Road. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/powder

17 It's a Seed's Life

Tuesday 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.

(Ages 7 & up) If you were a seed, how would you travel away from the parent plant? How would you know how long to sleep and when to wake up? When you sprouted, how would your roots know to grow downward and your stem know to grow upward? Join us as we explore these and other aspects of a seed's life. Make a seedling experiment to take home. (Reservations begin May 3.)



19 Homeschool Special: Poisonous and Venomous Things

Thursday 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.

(Ages 6 & up) Are you leery about going outside for fear of snakes, spiders, or poison ivy? Well have no fear. With a bit of know-how you can easily learn to identify some common outdoor hazards and safely enjoy the great Missouri outdoors. We'll discuss poisonous versus venomous in the classroom and then get outside and explore on a hike. (Reservations begin May 5.)

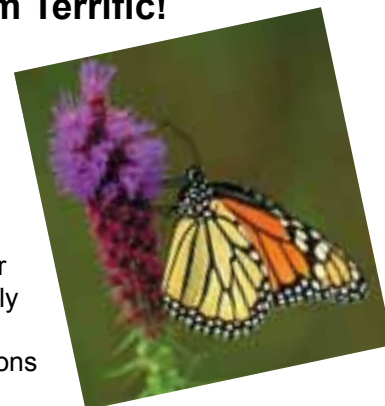
Volunteer Milestones

Ginny Bilbro	300 hours
Bill Busby	500 hours

21 Butterfly Gardening with Tom Terrific!

Saturday 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

(Ages 10 & up) Join Tom Terrific as he shows you how to attract butterflies to your yard. Tom will talk about site selection and preparation, host and nectar plants, pesticides, native plants, and much more. Tom uses pictures, video, and hands-on exhibits to teach you everything you need to know to create a butterfly paradise. After the program you are invited to tour Tom's butterfly gardens in Crestwood to see the more than 200 butterfly plant species that he grows. (Reservations begin May 7.)



25 Discover Nature Women: Guess Who's Coming to Dinner



Wednesday 9 a.m. - noon

(Ages 16 & up) Do you have unexpected guests at your house? Discover a positive approach for animal conflict resolution. We can invest in our wildlife by realizing that they provide a service for us and our community. Participate in a wildlife attitude check, observe live animals, and construct a bat house. (Reservations begin May 11.)

27 Discover Nature Families: A Herp Hike



Friday 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

(Families with children ages 4 & up) Have you ever touched a live snake, turtle, frog, or toad? Do they feel slimy, scaly, or smooth? Come find out at this hands-on day of learning where we will be looking at the many aspects of herpetology. A short hike to the pond will follow, where we will search for a variety of amphibians. Don't forget to wear comfortable shoes and dress for the weather. (Reservations begin May 12.)

May Hallway Exhibit Missouri and the Civil War

This month's exhibit documents the people and events of the Civil War, with an emphasis on Missouri, the St. Louis area, and the ancestors of our staff and volunteers. The exhibit includes photos and artifacts from the St. Louis History Museum and personal collections. Please take a few moments to reflect on the rich history of our area.

The exhibit is open during regular nature center hours.

